

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 A-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 /145 W
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O P 091100Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3330

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KAMPALA 3348

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR US UG GW

SUBJECT: FRG PROTECTION OF USG INTERESTS IN UGANDA:
MEETING WITH NTIMBA

REF: KA) BONN 16204; (B) STATE 220604

1. HAVE JUST HAD VERY CORDIAL 25-MINUTE MEETING WITH ACTING FON MIN PERM SEC JOHN NTIMBA. DELIVERED TO HIM TWO-SENTENCE NOTE AS INSTRUCTED REF (B). HE MADE NO COMMENT ON IT BUT SAID HE HAD BEEN EXPECTING MY CALL AND HE WOULD PASS THE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROTECTING POWER ON TO THE MINISTER RIGHT AWAY. HE SAID HE WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN AT MY MEETING OF YESTERDAY WITH THE MINISTER BUT HAD BEEN IN CONFERNCE. HOWEVER, THE MINISTER HAD BRIEFED HIM AFTERWARDS. HE STILL HAD SOME QUESTIONS, HE SAID, THE ANSWERS TO WHICH WOULD HILP HIM UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION.

2. FIRST OF ALL, HE ASKED, JUST WHAT DID THE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL OUR PERSONNEL MEAN? I SAID AS THE NOTE DELIVERED YESTERDAY HAD EXPLAINED, IT DID NOT CONSTITUTE A BREAK IN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, BECAUSE WE WERE NOT ASKING THE UGANDAN EMBASSY
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IN WASHINGTON TO CLOSE DOWN. IN FACT, WE VERY MUCH HOPED IT WOULD REMAIN OPEN, AS IT WOULD PROVIDE A READY MEANS OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS IN ADDITION TO THE PROTECTING POWER'S EMBASSY IN KAMPALA. NTIMBA THEN ASKED IF

WE INTENDED TO ESTABLISH AN "INTERESTS SECTION" (HIS TERM) IN THE GERMAN EMBASSY HERE. I SAID WE DID NOT, AND OUR UGANDAN EMPLOYEES WHO WOULD BE CONTINUING TO WORK ON OUR AFFAIRS WOULD BE EMPLOYEES OF THE GERMAN EMBASSY. NO AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC OR CONSULAR PERSONNEL WOULD REMAIN IN UGANDA.

3. NTIMBA ASKED IF THE USIS CENTER WOULD ALSO BE CLOSED. I REPLIED THAT IT ALREADY HAD BEEN, THOUGH WE WERE LEAVING BEHIND, IN THE CUSTODY OF THE GERMAN EMBASSY, MOST OF THE PROGRAM MATERIALS, FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT IN THE CENTER. (NTIMBA IS PROBABLY AWARE THAT THE BRITISH OFTEN KEEP THEIR BRITISH COUNCIL GOING EVEN AFTER A BREAK IN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.) NTIMBA ASKED WHAT SORTS OF FUNCTIONS THE GERMAN EMBASSY WOULD PERFORM FOR US, AND I GAVE HIM A GENERAL RUN-DOWN ON THIS SUBJECT.

4. NTIMBA THEN ASKED WHAT HAD BEEN THE REASON FOR OUR DECISION TO CLOSE OUR EMBASSY HERE. I SAID THE REASON WAS AS STATED IN THE NOTE DELIVERED YESTERDAY. I ADDED THAT ONE OF THE THINGS MENTIONED IN THE NOTE, THE EXPULSION OF THE MARINE GUARDS, HAD A PRACTICAL DIMENSION AS WELL, FOR WE FELT THAT IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO OPERATE AN EMBASSY HERE WITHOUT THE SECURITY PROVIDED BY THE MARINE GUARDS. I TOLD NTIMBA WHEN I PLANNED TO TURN THE EMBASSY OVER TO AMBASSADOR KOPF AND WHEN I WOULD BE LEAVING. I SAID THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WOULD BE HEARING IN DUE COURSE FROM THE GERMAN EMBASSY, AND NTIMBA SAID THEY WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH THE GERMAN EMBASSY. WE PARTED AFTER A MUTUAL EXCHANGE OF THANKS FOR THE GOOD PERSONAL RELATIONS WE HAVE ENJOYED DURING THE PAST YEAR.

5. I MET WITH KOPF AND HILLGENBERG AT KOPF'S REQUEST FOR AN HOUR BEFORE GOING TO SEE NTIMBA. KOPF WAS MOST UPSET BY THE TEXT OF THE NOTE I WAS INSTRUCTED TO DELIVER, AS HE CONSIDERED IT PROVOCATIVE AND LIKELY TO CAUSE A NEGATIVE REPLY FROM THE GOU. I TOLD HIM MY INSTRUCTIONS WERE CLEAR, THERE WAS NO LEEWAY AND I WAS GOING TO DELIVER THE NOTE WITH THE TEXT GIVEN ME WHEN I SAW NTIMBA. I SAID THE TEXT HAD BEEN AGREED UPON BY OUR TWO CONFIDENTIAL

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GOVERNMENTS AND THERE WAS NO POINT ARGUING ABOUT IT FURTHER. I EXPLAINED THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT THOUGHT THAT ASKING FOR THE CONCURRENCE OF THE GOU WOULD OPEN AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE GOU TO TURN US DOWN, AND THEY WOULD MUCH RATHER SIMPLY ASSUME THAT THE ARRANGEMENT WAS SATISFACTORY. KOPF SAID THE LANGUAGE OF THE NOTE WAS INSULTING, AND HE THOUGHT HE WOULD HAVE TO BEAR THE BRUNT OF THE GOU'S ANGER OVER IT, WHICH WOULD NOT BE GOOD FOR THEM OR FOR US. I SAID IF THE GOU GOT ANGRY IT WOULD MORE LIKELY BE WITH ME, SINCE IT WAS MY NOTE (WE AGREED HIS NOTE IS MORE POLITELY PHRASED) THAT WOULD PROVOKE THEM, AND I NO LONGER CARED WHAT THE GOU DID, AS I WAS LEAVING IN ABOUT 33 HOURS.

6. KOPF ASKED ME IF I WOULD SEE GENERAL AMIN IF HE ASKED ME. I SAID OF COURSE, FOR UNTIL I TURN OVER TO HIM TOMORROW THIS EMBASSY IS STILL FUNCTIONING AND I WOULD BEHAVE JUST AS I WOULD ON ANY OTHER DAY. THIS APPEARED TO PLEASE KOPF. SOMETHING THAT DID NOT PLEASE HIM WAS THAT HE RECEIVED HIS INSTRUCTIONS FROM BONN THROUGH US. I EXPLAINED TO HIM THAT THAT WAS DONE ONLY IN THE INTEREST OF SPEED AND HE WOULD SOON BE RECEIVING HIS OWN TELEGRAM IN GERMAN. I CLEARED WITH HIM THE TEXT OF THE FINAL NOTE WE WILL SEND TO ALL OTHER ACCREDITED MISSIONS (WITH WHICH WE HAVE RELATIONS) INFORMING THEM OF THE CLOSING OF THE EMBASSY. AT HIS REQUEST I CHANGED THE SENTENCE SAYING THEY WILL SERVE AS PROTECTING POWER TO MAKE IT READ "THE USG HAS ASKED THE FRG TO ASSUME THE PROTECTION OF ITS INTERESTS IN UGANDA AS OF THE SAME DATE." THEY WILL MAIL THESE NOTES, WHICH ARE DATED NOVEMBER 10, ON MONDAY.

7. KOPF DIDN'T SAY WHAT HE PROPOSES TO DO ABOUT HIS OWN NOTE. I SUPPOSE HE'LL WAIT TILL TOMORROW AND SLIP IT UNDER THE DOOR AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, WHICH WILL BE CLOSED TOMORROW. HIS INSTRUCTIONS ARE TO DELIVER THAT NOTE PRIOR TO MY DEPARTURE, SO I GUESS HE WOULD BE DOING AS HE IS TOLD. IN ANY CASE, I AM TIRED OF ARGUING WITH HIM. WE PLAN TO SIGN THE "PROTOCOL DE REMISE" AROUND NOON ON SATURDAY. HAVE BRIEFED KOPF ON MEETING WITH NTIMBA.

8. UGANDAN MEDIA HAVE SAID NOTHING ABOUT OUR CLOSURE. IN REPORTING MY MEETING WITH ONDOGA OF YESTERDAY THEY HAVE COVERED ONLY THE PORTION DEALING WITH HIS COMPLAINT TO ME ABOUT THE SECURITY PROBLEMS OF THE UGANDAN MISSION TO THE UN. THE TV NEWS, HOWEVER, CONFIDENTIAL

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SHOWED ME HANDING MY NOTE TO ONDOGA AND HIM READING IT, WITHOUT EXPLAINING WHAT THAT SCENE WAS ALL ABOUT, AND THE VOICE OF UGANDA TODAY PUBLISHED A PICTURE OF ME HANDING THE NOTE TO ONDOGA WITH THIS CAPTION: "THE UGANDA MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, LT. COL. M. ONDOGA, RECEIVING A WRITTEN DOCUMENT REGARDING SECURITY MATTERS FOR UGANDANS IN THE US, FROM THE US CHARGE D'AFFAIRES IN UGANDA, MR. KEELEY, YESTERDAY." PAPER ALSO PUBLISHED TEXT OF AMIN'S TELEGRAM OF YESTERDAY TO PRESIDENT NIXON.

9. IF THERE IS NEED FOR A TELCON, DEPT SHOULD NOTE THAT I AM MOVING FROM MY HOUSE TO THE RESIDENCE (41450) TONIGHT.
KEELEY

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